

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
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FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5845
INFO ALL EC CAPITALS
AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

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USEEC

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TAGS: PERP, EC, EP, TU, GR, CY
SUBJ: US CONGRESS-EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT EXCHANGE: DISCUSSION
OF THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN

1. SUMMARY: AT THE 13TH SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING OF THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE US CONGRESS AND THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT (EP) IN TAORMINA, SICILY MARCH 28-31, THE TWO DELEGATIONS DISCUSSED THE SITUATION IN THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO THE IMPORTANCE OF TURKEY TO THE NATO ALLIANCE. THE US DELEGATION, LED BY CONGRESSMAN LEO RYAN OF CALIFORNIA, PRESENTED VIEWS PREVAILING IN THE US CONGRESS ON THE ARMS EMBARGO AGAINST TURKEY. SPECIAL EMPHASIS WAS ALSO PLACED BY THE TWO DELEGATIONS ON THE IMPORTANCE OF BOTH TURKEY AND GREECE TO WESTERN SECURITY IN THE MEDITERRANEAN. END SUMMARY.

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2. DISCUSSION OF THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN WAS LED OFF BY CONGRESSMAN WINN (KANSAS, REP), WHO FORCEFULLY PRESENTED WHAT CONGRESSMAN RYAN CHARACTERIZED AS THE HOUSE "MINORITY POSITION" ON THE ARMS EMBARGO AGAINST TURKEY. EMPHASIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF GOOD US-TURKISH RELATIONS TO US NATIONAL INTERESTS, WINN COMMENTED THAT THE POLICIES

PURSUED BY THE USG TO DATE WERE CONFUSED AND DID LITTLE TO KEEP TURKEY IN THE WESTERN CAMP. SUPPORTED BY CONGRESSWOMAN SHIRLEY PETTIS (CALIF, REP), WINN ARGUED IN FAVOR OF LIFTING THE ARMS EMBARGO, RATIFICATION OF THE DEFENSE COOPERATION AGREEMENT AND THE "CREATION" OF AN INTERNATIONAL CONSORTIUM TO ASSIST TURKEY FINANCIALLY. WHILE NOT DWELLING ON GREECE, BOTH PETTIS AND WINN ACKNOWLEDGED IT IS ALSO IN US NATIONAL INTERESTS TO KEEP GREECE FRIENDLY TO THE WEST.

3. SPEAKING ON BEHALF OF WHAT RYAN CALLED "THE MAJORITY IN THE HOUSE", CONGRESSMAN FITHIAN (IND., DEM) SAID THERE IS "GENERAL REVULSION" IN THE CONGRESS AT THE TURKISH 1974 ACTION, BECAUSE THE INVASION OF CYPRUS WAS AN AFFRONT TO THE BASIC PRINCIPLES AND PURPOSES OF NATO AND CONTRARY TO THE PURPOSES FOR WHICH US MILITARY ASSISTANCE WAS ORIGINALLY PROVIDED TO TURKEY. HE SAID THAT A HOUSE MAJORITY AGREES WITH THE NEED FOR IMPROVED US-TURKISH RELATIONS BUT THAT IMPROVEMENT WILL DEPEND ON THE WITHDRAWAL OF ALL TURKISH TROOPS FROM CYPRUS. CONGRESSMAN RYAN OBSERVED THAT CONGRESSIONAL ATTITUDES ARE CONDITIONED TO A LARGE EXTENT BY THE STRONG GREEK LOBBY IN THE US AND THE ABSENCE OF ANY EFFECTIVE COUNTERBALANCE FROM THE TURKISH SIDE. RYAN SUGGESTED, HOWEVER, THAT THERE IS IN THE HOUSE AN UNCOMMITTED MIDDLE GROUP--APPROACHING A MAJORITY--WHICH HAS NOT TAKEN A POSITION EITHER FOR OR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AGAINST LIFTING THE EMBARGO AGAINST TURKEY OR FAVORING GREECE.

4. THE EP DELEGATES, WHILE GENERALLY AGREEING THAT A STABLE MEDITERRANEAN IS VITAL TO WESTERN INTERESTS AND THAT NATO'S SOUTHERN FLANK SHOULD NOT BE ALLOWED TO BECOME WEAK, ARGUED THAT THE MILITARY/SECURITY ASPECTS OF THE MEDITERRANEAN REGION SHOULD BE CONSIDERED IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE PROBLEMS OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE AREA. ON THE SPECIFIC ISSUE OF CYPRUS, SOME EP DELEGATES ADVOCATED A "MINI MARSHALL PLAN" TO ASSIST THE COUNTRY ECONOMICALLY WITH A VIEW TO HELPING BOTH CYPRIOT COMMUNITIES. THEY SAID SUCH AID WOULD FACILITATE DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COMMUNITIES. MORRIS

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